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Message from Dennis Schrader

Dear Fellow Marylanders,

One of the greatest challenges facing Maryland's Homeland Security and first responders is the ability to communicate in the event of an emergency.

Since the terrorist attacks of September 11, 2001, the State of Maryland has made tremendous strides in bridging the communication gaps between municipal, county, state and federal agencies. This new interoperability strategy allows police, fire and emergency medical services, along with government leaders and other agencies, to cost-effectively communicate using wireless and radio technology in the event of an emergency.

The new "Statewide Interoperable Public Safety Communications" plan, which was recently published, also strengthens security by making sure the right resources will be in place to protect Maryland citizens through improved communications. It will also help provide important information citizens need during times of crisis.

We have come a long way as we strive to secure Maryland's homeland. We will continue to focus on protecting our citizens, while serving as a national role model for state homeland security operations.

Sincerely,

Dennis Schrader
Director
Governor's Office of Homeland Security